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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Group, I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution No. 4/42-MM on the situation of the Muslim community in Myanmar, adopted during the forty-second session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which was held in Kuwait on 27 and 28 May (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mansour **Alotaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-09998 (E) 230615

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Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Resolution No. 4/42-MM on the situation of the Muslim community in Myanmar

The forty-second session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Session of joint vision to strengthen tolerance and reject terrorism), held in Kuwait, State of Kuwait, on 9 and 10 Sha'ban 1436H (27-28 May 2015),

Guided by the principles and objectives of the charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and pursuant to relevant resolutions on Muslim communities and minorities calling for assistance to Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC member States to preserve their dignity and cultural and religious identity,

Recalling resolution No. 3/4-EX (IS), adopted by the fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference, held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 2012, on the Rohingya Muslim community in Myanmar and subsequent ministerial resolutions in this regard,

Noting the report[1] of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee,

Noting also United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/248 of 29 December 2014 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Taking into consideration that the plight of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar cannot be tackled from a purely humanitarian perspective, and should be dealt with within the framework of their inalienable rights as citizens,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the Muslim community in Myanmar,[2]

1. *Recalls* the joint communiqué signed on 16 November 2013 between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in the Rakhine State of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,[3] which set the foundation for future cooperation, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to implement an all-inclusive and transparent verification process which will lead to the granting of citizenship for the Rohingya Muslim minority;

2. *Renews* the call upon the Myanmar authorities to adopt an inclusive, transparent policy towards the Rohingya Muslims as an integral part of their democratization process and reform and to recognize them as an ethnic minority in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/238 of 24 December 2009;

3. *Expresses concern* over the continued acts of violence towards Rohingya Muslims, including killing, rape, eviction and forced expulsion of inhabitants,

[1] See A/69/398.

[2] Document No. OIC/CFM-42/2015/MM/SG.REP.

[3] See http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/topic/?t_id=8612&t_ref=3465&lan=en.

arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, and urges the Government of Myanmar to prevent such acts and violations, implement the rule of law, provide security for all and accentuate peaceful solutions through dialogue to achieve national unity;

4. *Also expresses concern* over the fact that the Rohingya community continues to face systematic discrimination, which derives from their lack of legal status, resulting in restrictions on their freedom of movement, access to land, food, water, education and health care as well as restrictions related to marriage and birth certificates;

5. *Further expresses concern* over the difficult operational environment for international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies, which includes threats, intimidation and attacks against their staff;

6. *Expresses concern* that the intolerable situation in Rakhine State is causing thousands of Muslims to leave this area by sea in treacherous conditions, resulting in deaths and human trafficking;

7. *Also expresses concern* over the decision of the Government of Myanmar not to allow the national census to take place for the Rohingya community in Rakhine State in 2014, and reiterates the call for the Government of Myanmar to restore the citizenship of the Rohingya Muslim community, which was revoked in the Citizenship Act of 1982;

8. *Further expresses concern* over the spread of hate speech and incitement to violence, discrimination and hostility in the media and Internet, as well as efforts to pass laws discriminating against the Muslim community in Myanmar, such as the interfaith marriage and religious conversion laws, etc.;

9. *Urges* the authorities of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to restore stability and launch a comprehensive reconciliation process that includes all components of the Rohingya community, including those who have lost their nationality, all internally displaced persons and refugees and others in irregular situations in or outside of Myanmar, and invites OIC member States to join their efforts to those of the international community at the United Nations with a view to ensuring the return of all Myanmar refugees and internally displaced persons to their place of origin;

10. *Appreciates* the Government of Myanmar's initial efforts to bring stability to Rakhine State by positively responding to the offer of the Secretary General to establish a medical facility in the State of Rakhine to address the health-care needs of both communities, and encourages the Government to respond positively to the proposal to establish a technical school and conduct a symposium on interfaith dialogue;

11. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Republic of Turkey, as co-sponsor of the Alliance of Civilizations, to host a meeting between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in order to promote interfaith and intercommunal dialogue, which is of utmost importance, especially in view of the spread of anti-Muslim sentiment in Myanmar;

12. *Also welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary General of Tan Sri Dato Seri Syed Hamid Albar, former Foreign Minister of Malaysia, as his Special Envoy to Myanmar, and expresses the hope that his mission will help to alleviate the

suffering of the Rohingya Muslim minority and facilitate the implementation of the present resolution through good offices and contacts with Myanmar authorities and representatives of relevant communities, and urges all OIC member States to extend their full support to him for the success of his mission;

13. *Urges* the Myanmar authorities to cooperate with all related parties and allow for humanitarian assistance to reach all affected people and groups unconditionally, and calls for it to ensure the return of all Muslim Rohingya refugees who were expelled from their homes in the Rakhine State (Arakan) and other regions;

14. *Also urges* the Myanmar authorities to create economic opportunities for the historically deprived Rohingya community in order to achieve balanced socioeconomic development of the Rakhine State and to defuse tension among communities;

15. *Requests* the Secretary General to remain seized of the matter, follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the forty-third session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.